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AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

The status of all claims and the text of pending claims, with markings to show current changes relative to the immediately prior version, follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A brush seal assembly for sealing a gap between a first component and a second component, comprising:

a body;

bristles secured to and extending from said body in a direction; and

an extension from said body, said extension having an elongated slot therein;

wherein said slot, when said brush seal assembly mounts between said first and second component, allows said brush seal assembly to float within said gap along said direction.

2. (Original) The brush seal of claim 1, wherein said brush seal assembly can axially float within said gap.

3. (Original) The brush seal of claim 1, wherein said brush seal is an axial brush seal.

4. (Original) The brush seal of claim 1, further comprising a spring for biasing said brush seal.

5. (Original) The brush seal of claim 4, wherein said spring biases said brush seal against said second component.

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6. (Original) The brush seal of claim 4, wherein said spring biases said brush seal away from said second component.

7. (Currently Amended) An axial brush seal assembly for sealing a gap between a first component and a second component having an elongated slot and keyways in communication therewith, comprising:

a body positionable in said elongated slot so that said brush seal assembly can move in an axial direction within said gap;

bristles extending from said body and engaging said first and second components; and

splines extending from said body and positionable within said keyways to prevent rotation of said brush seal assembly.

8. (Currently Amended) An axial brush seal assembly for sealing a gap between a first component and a second component, comprising:

a body;

bristles secured to and extending from said body; and

an extension from said body, said extension having ~~an~~ a first section extending radially from said body, a second section extending axially from said first section, and a slot therein in said second section that is elongated in said axial direction for allowing movement of said brush seal assembly in an axial direction within said gap.

9-13. (Cancelled)

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14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
- a first component;
 - a second component spaced from said first component in an axial direction;
 - an axial brush seal assembly movably mounted between said first and second components and having bristles engaging said first and second components; and
 - a spring;
- wherein said brush seal assembly can move in said axial direction and said spring biases said brush seal assembly.
15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said apparatus is a gas turbine engine.
16. (Currently Amended) A method of sealing a gap between a first component and a second component, comprising the steps of:
- placing an axial brush seal assembly between said first and second components, said axial brush seal assembly having bristles that engage said first and second components;
 - allowing said brush seal assembly to float in said gap; and
 - preventing rotation of said brush seal assembly.
17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein said allowing step comprises allowing said brush seal to float axially in said gap.

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18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said allowing step includes a step of applying a bias force to said brush seal.
19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein said applying step comprises applying a spring bias force to said brush seal.
20. (Previously Presented) The axial brush seal assembly of claim 7, wherein said splines radially extend from said body.
21. (Previously Presented) The axial brush seal assembly of claim 8, further comprising a spring for biasing said brush seal.
22. (Previously Presented) The axial brush seal of claim 21, wherein said spring biases said brush seal assembly against said second component.
23. (Previously Presented) The brush seal of claim 21, wherein said spring biases said brush seal assembly away from said second component.
24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said spring biases said brush seal assembly against said second component.
25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said spring biases said brush seal assembly away from said second component.

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26. (Currently Amended) An axial brush seal assembly for sealing a gap between a first component and a second component having an elongated slot therein, comprising:

a body;

bristles extending from said body; and

a fastener rigidly mounted to said body and adapted to extend into said elongated slot;

wherein said fastener can travel within said elongated slot to allow movement of said brush seal assembly within said gap.

27. (Previously Presented) The axial brush seal assembly of claim 26, wherein said fastener is removable.

28. (Previously Presented) The axial brush seal assembly of claim 26, wherein said fastener comprises a plunger assembly.

29. (Currently Amended) A method of sealing a gap between a first component and a second component, comprising the steps of:

placing an axial brush seal assembly between said first and second components, said axial brush seal assembly having a body, bristles extending from said body, and an extension from said body, said extension having a slot therein with a depth, said slot being elongated transverse to said depth;

allowing said brush seal assembly to float in said gap; and

applying a bias force to said brush seal assembly.

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30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said applying step comprises applying a spring bias force to said brush seal assembly.
31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said applying step biases said brush seal assembly against said second component.
32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said applying step biases said brush seal assembly away from said second component.
33. (New) The brush seal assembly of claim 1, wherein said elongated slot has a depth, and said slot is elongated transverse to said depth
34. (New) The brush seal assembly of claim 1, wherein said bristles engage said first and second components.
35. (New) The brush seal assembly of claim 34, wherein said brush seal assembly includes a first brush seal for engaging said first component and a second brush seal for engaging said second component.
36. (New) The brush seal assembly of claim 34, wherein a single brush seal engages said first and second components.

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37. (New) The axial brush seal assembly of claim 7, wherein said brush seal assembly includes a first brush seal for engaging said first component and a second brush seal for engaging said second component.
38. (New) The axial brush seal assembly of claim 7, wherein a single brush seal engages said first and second components.
39. (New) The axial brush seal assembly of claim 8, wherein said elongated slot has a depth, and said slot is elongated transverse to said depth
40. (New) The axial brush seal assembly of claim 8, wherein said bristles engage said first and second components.
41. (New) The brush seal assembly of claim 40, wherein said brush seal assembly includes a first brush seal for engaging said first component and a second brush seal for engaging said second component.
42. (New) The brush seal assembly of claim 40, wherein a single brush seal engages said first and second components.
43. (New) The axial brush seal assembly of claim 8, further comprising a boss surrounding said slot.

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44. (New) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said brush seal assembly includes a first brush seal for engaging said first component and a second brush seal for engaging said second component.
45. (New) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein a single brush seal engages said first and second components.
46. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein said brush seal assembly includes a first brush seal for engaging said first component and a second brush seal for engaging said second component.
47. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein a single brush seal engages said first and second components.
48. (New) The axial brush seal assembly of claim 26, wherein said bristles engage said first and second components.
49. (New) The axial brush seal assembly of claim 48, wherein said brush seal assembly includes a first brush seal for engaging said first component and a second brush seal for engaging said second component.
50. (New) The axial brush seal assembly of claim 48, wherein a single brush seal engages said first and second components.

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51. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising a step of engaging said first and second components with said bristles.
52. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein said brush seal assembly includes a first brush seal for engaging said first component and a second brush seal for engaging said second component.
53. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein a single brush seal engages said first and second components.